

its back a denticulated cord of pyrites, surrounded by a proper test, which indicates a dorsal cavity of perfectly unusual dimensions. The traces of the septa and lobes stop towards this cord, which is smooth and without septa. At the penultimate whorl, the canal is even seen empty and surrounded by its test; it may be followed a long way with a hair. Below this canal, the test of the shell, properly so called, is distinctly seen, and still more internally the siphon.

M. Quenstedt thus proves that there is a group of Ammonites in which there is above the back a large open canal without septa, separated from the siphon by a wall, which is the true test of the shell. He calls the Ammonites of this group *Dorsocavati*.

It remains to determine the function of this canal, which only occurs in a small number of types, otherwise very different from each other. It is not to be supposed, in fact, that all the Ammonites which have a dorsal keel are true *A. dorsocavati*; thus the *A. Tessonanus*, D'Orb., presents a perfectly compact fracture. The true Ammonites of this group always present a continuation of the test of the shell at the base of the dorsal canal, so that the keel is detached with facility, and may lead to error.

M. Quenstedt indicates some species which should be placed in the group of the *Dorsocavati*. He has observed the organization above mentioned in *A. radians* from the lias, converted into limestone; and in the species which he calls *Canaliculatus albus*, if it is not detached from the rock, and if in consequence its keel is not fractured. He shows that the *A. canaliculati* of the white Jura are thus distinguished from those which belong to older strata, for they are *dorsocavati*, whilst the latter are not so. In connexion with this he removes some errors of synonymy.—*Leonhard and Bronn, Neues Jahrbuch*, 1857, p. 544; and *Bibl. Univ.* 1858, *Bull. Sci.* p. 287.

Note on the Larvæ of the Spiny Lobster (Palinurus). By M. COSTE.

M. Coste has lately communicated to the Academy of Sciences in Paris the interesting statement, that the young larvæ produced from the ova of *Palinurus* are identical in structure with the well-known pelagic genus *Phyllosoma*, of which the species have hitherto been found principally in the Indian Seas. These young Crustacea have a flattened, membranous, diaphanous body, divided into two shields; of these the anterior, which is very large, forms the head; and the second, which is much smaller, bears the foot-jaws and the five pairs of feet, and terminates posteriorly in a short, slender abdomen. The eyes, as in *Phyllosoma*, are borne upon long footstalks; the feet are composed of the same number of joints, terminated by strong claws, and furnished at the second articulation with an appendage composed of three principal pieces, of which the last is furnished with barbs on each side, themselves provided with barbules. In all these points the larvæ agree exactly with *Phyllosoma*, so that there is some reason to suppose that this genus, like *Zoëa*, will have to be erased from the system.—*Comptes Rendus*, March 22, 1858, p. 547.